

SECRET

*Foreign Agents  
Registration Act*

\*OGC Has Reviewed\*

2. The Senate has stricken from H.R. 9580, a bill to revise and extend the laws relating to espionage and sabotage, Section 304(d), which would provide that one whose knowledge of or receipt of instruction or assignment in the espionage service of a foreign government is a matter of record in the files of a U.S. Government agency having responsibilities in the field of intelligence and concerning whom a written determination is made by the Attorney General or the Director of Central Intelligence, that registration with the Attorney General would not be in the interest of national security. This section was worked out jointly with the Department of Justice on the strong plea from Staff C that certain persons with foreign intelligence backgrounds who came to the United States would be of interest to this Government either for utilization or surveillance, provided that such person did not know of U.S. intelligence interest in him or in some instances that the U.S. Government knew of his intelligence background. This possibility would be lost if such an alien were required to register, and this led to the drafting of this provision which was passed by the House. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Robert Minor, Special Assistant to the Deputy Attorney General, who informs me that the Senate Committee feels that this subsection, together with several others which they have stricken from the bill, are aimed at "cutting the heart out of" the McCarran Internal Security Act. Therefore, Mr. Minor (in coordination with the State and Defense Departments) suggests that the bill pass the Senate in its amended form and that an all out effort be made to restore the deleted sections in the Conference. It is the Department of Justice view that they would rather lose the bill as a result of the Conference action in which the House stood firm for the Administration than to let the bill die in the Senate prior to Conference because of insistence on restoring the sections in the Senate. Mr. Minor concurs in the view that it might be helpful if we made our views and positions known on subsection 304(d) to Chairman Reed or Subcommittee Chairman Graham and Staff member Besterman in the House before they go to Conference.

*22 July 1954*